AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) A method of microscopic visualization of a three-dimensional object wherein the sample (1) is visualized through an interferometer (2),

characterized in that local probes (9) of nanometric dimensions are inserted in the sample (1).

2. (original) A method of microscopic visualization of a three-dimensional object according to claim 1, characterized in that the local probes (9) are balls.

3. (currently amended) A method of microscopic visualization of a three-dimensional object according to claim 1 [[or 2]], characterized in that the local probes (9) are metallic.

4. (currently amended) A method of microscopic visualization of a three-dimensional object according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, characterized in that the interferometer (2) is a Michelson interferometer.

5. (currently amended) A method of microscopic visualization of a three-dimensional object according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, characterized in that the interferometer (2) is a Linnik interferometer.

6. (currently amended) A method of microscopic visualization of a three-dimensional object according to ~~any of the~~

~~claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, characterized in that the interferometer (2) is a Mirau interferometer.

7. (currently amended) A method of microscopic visualization of a three-dimensional object according to ~~any of the claims 4 to 6~~ claim 4, characterized in that the interferometer (2) includes a wide spectrum source (5).

8. (original) A method of microscopic visualization of a three-dimensional object according to claim 7, characterized in that the source (5) delivers short light pulses.

9. (currently amended) A method of microscopic visualization of a three-dimensional object according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, characterized in that optical means form the picture of a thin slice of the object on a matrix detector (6) via the interferometer (2).

10. (original) A device of microscopic visualization of a three-dimensional object comprising :

- an interferometer (2),
- a wide spectrum source (5),
- a matrix sensor (6),
- means to form the picture of a thin slice of the object on the sensor (6) via the interferometer (2),
- a unit for processing the picture produced by the matrix sensor (6),

characterized in that it includes means for inserting local probes (9) in the sample.